

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An optical transmission system, comprising an optical communication apparatus, a communicating party of said optical communication apparatus, and a monitor for performing monitoring of optical signals transmitted and received between said optical communication apparatus and said communicating party;

wherein said optical communication apparatus comprises:

optical branching means for branching optical signals to be transmitted to said communicating party and optical signals received from said communicating party; and

conducting means for conducting said optical signals to be transmitted and said received optical signals that have been branched by said optical branching means, to said monitor, and

wherein said monitor performs monitoring of the data contents of said optical signals to be transmitted and said received optical signals that have been conducted from said conducting means.

2. (Currently Amended) The optical transmission system according to claim 1,

wherein said conducting means comprises:

a first transmit interface for conducting to said monitor said optical signals to be transmitted; and

a second transmit interface for conducting to said monitor said received optical signals, and

wherein said monitor comprises ~~consists of~~ two mutually independent monitors: a monitor for performing monitoring of the data contents of said optical signals to be transmitted that have been conducted from said first

transmit interface, and a monitor for performing monitoring of the data contents of said received optical signals that have been conducted from said second transmit interface.

3. (Currently Amended) An optical transmission system, comprising an optical communication apparatus, a communicating party of said optical communication apparatus, and a monitor for performing monitoring of optical signals transmitted and received between said optical communication apparatus and said communicating party,

wherein said optical transmission system comprises an optical external conducting apparatus, located between said optical communication apparatus and said communicating party, that includes optical branching means for branching said optical signals and conducting means for conducting said optical signals that have been branched by said optical branching means, to said monitor, and

wherein said monitor performs monitoring of the data contents of said optical signals that have been conducted from said conducting means.

4. (Currently Amended) The optical transmission system according to claim 3,

wherein said conducting means comprises:

a first transmit interface for conducting optical signals transmitted by said optical communication apparatus from among said branched optical signals, to said monitor; and

a second transmit interface for conducting optical signals transmitted by said communicating party from among said branched optical signals, to said monitor, and

wherein said monitor comprises ~~consists of~~ two mutually independent monitors: a monitor for performing monitoring of the data contents of optical signals transmitted by said optical communication apparatus that have been conducted from said first transmit interface, and a monitor for performing

monitoring of the data contents of optical signals transmitted by said communicating party that have been conducted from said second transmit interface.

5. (Original) The optical transmission system according to claim 1, wherein said data contents are signaling information necessary for data exchange.

6. (Original) A monitoring method for an optical transmission system comprising an optical communication apparatus, a communicating party of said optical communication apparatus, and an external monitor for performing monitoring of optical signals transmitted and received between said optical communication apparatus and said communicating party, comprising:

in said optical communication apparatus, an optical branching step of branching optical signals to be transmitted to said communicating party and optical signals received from said communicating party, and a conducting step of conducting said optical signals to be transmitted and said received optical signals that have been branched in said optical branching step, to said external monitor; and

in said monitor, a monitoring step of performing monitoring of the data contents of said optical signals to be transmitted and said received optical signals that have been conducted in said conducting step.

7. (Original) A monitoring method for an optical transmission system comprising an optical communication apparatus, a communicating party of said optical communication apparatus, and an external monitor for performing monitoring of optical signals transmitted and received between said optical communication apparatus and said communicating party, comprising:

in an optical external conducting apparatus located between said optical communication apparatus and said communicating party, an optical branching step of branching said optical signals, and a conducting step of conducting said

optical signals that have been branched in said optical branching step, to said external monitor; and

in said monitor, a monitoring step of performing monitoring of the data contents of said optical signals that have been conducted in said conducting step.

8. (Original) The monitoring method according to claim 6, wherein said data contents are signaling information necessary for data exchange.

9. (Original) An optical communication apparatus, comprising:
optical branching means for branching optical signals to be transmitted to a communicating party and optical signals received from said communicating party; and

conducting means for conducting said optical signals to be transmitted and said received optical signals that have been branched by means of said optical branching means, to a monitor for performing monitoring of the data contents of optical signals.

10. (Currently Amended) The optical communication apparatus according to claim 9,

wherein said conducting means comprises:

a first transmit interface for conducting to said monitor said optical signals to be transmitted; and

a second transmit interface for conducting to said monitor said received optical signals, and

wherein said monitor comprises ~~consists of~~ two mutually independent monitors: a monitor for performing monitoring of the data contents of said optical signals to be transmitted that have been conducted from said first transmit interface, and a monitor for performing monitoring of the data contents

of said received optical signals that have been conducted from said second transmit interface.

11. (Original) The optical communication apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said data contents are signaling information necessary for data exchange.

12. (Original) An optical external conducting apparatus, located between an optical communication apparatus and a communicating party of said optical communication apparatus, comprising:

optical branching means for branching optical signals transmitted and received between said optical communication apparatus and said communicating party; and

conducting means for conducting said optical signals that have been branched by said optical branching means to a monitor for performing monitoring of the data contents of said optical signals.

13. (Currently Amended) The optical external conducting apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said conducting means comprises:

a first transmit interface for conducting optical signals transmitted by said optical communication apparatus from among said branched optical signals, to said monitor; and

a second transmit interface for conducting optical signals transmitted by said communicating party from among said branched optical signals, to said monitor, and

said monitor comprises ~~consists of~~ two mutually independent monitors: a monitor for performing monitoring of the data contents of optical signals transmitted by said optical communication apparatus that have been conducted from said first transmit interface, and a monitor for performing monitoring of the

data contents of optical signals transmitted by said communicating party that have been conducted from said second transmit interface.

14. (Original) The optical external conducting apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said data contents are signaling information necessary for data exchange.